



View from the

Blackdown Hills

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Issue 81 September 2011

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Plug pulled on allotments plan

DESPITE BACKING FROM MANY LOCAL RESIDENTS

A PLAN to create allotments at a sports field in the Blackdown Hills has been refused by East Devon District Council (EDDC) despite having support from local residents.

Geoffrey Wilmott, of Cuckoo Down House, Cuckoo Down Lane, near Honiton, had offered part of a sports field at Cuckoo Down Lane to be used as allotments. As part of the proposal, Honiton Allotment Association would manage the area and 60 individual growing areas would be created.

In a design and access statement sent to EDDC, Mr Wilmott said: "The sports field has had some adult cricket matches played on it but it has mainly been used for under 11 fixtures.

"By moving the sports pitches, we will create 60 individual growing areas. We have been approached by the local community to provide this opportunity for local people.

"This site is to be run and managed by Honiton Allotment Association. The fees from the area will go a

small way towards the cost of maintaining the remaining 75 per cent of the sports field and therefore reduce the cost to local sport, youth and leisure groups who use the facility."

Some residents living close to the site and members of the Honiton Allotment Association had given their backing to the plans.

However, the application was considered by EDDC planners last month and they refused the scheme.

In a planning document produced by the district council it said: "The provision of allotments is considered to be unsuitable due to the level of traffic likely to be attracted to the site. The amount of private vehicles attracted to the site is likely to lead to some impact to the character of the countryside.

"The loss of part of the playing field has been objected to by Sport England even though the present layout of the pitches could be rearranged and the provision of allotments is much in need.

"In summary, the proposal for a change of use of part of

the playing field to allotments is not considered acceptable."

Honiton Town Council and the highway authority recommended that the plans be refused. A spokesman for Honiton Town Council said: "The town council objects to the change of use of part of the existing sports field to allotments. The town council understands that there is under provision of sports pitches and does not support the loss of sports pitches.

"The town council has concerns over traffic access and sustainability on this site in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty."

A spokesman for the highway authority added: "The site is certainly not ideally located with respect to residential properties and it is inevitable that the proposed change of use to allotments will result in additional vehicle movements to and from the site by the allotment keepers.

"It is unlikely that allotment keepers would walk or cycle in view of the equipment and produce that they would need to bring to or remove from the site."

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Hills alive with runners on trek for charity day

By LUCIE SIMIC

blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk

THE Blackdown Hills will be alive with runners and walkers this month as hundreds of people help to raise vital funds for the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance (DSAA).

The Trickey Warren Trek fundraising day will be returning for a third successive year on Sunday, September 18th.

It offers a mix of 10k, 4k, and 2k routes for serious and fun runners alike, and this year there will be a new forest trail route to replace the 4k perimeter track.

The trek takes place at Trickey Warren Farm, Culmhead, a former Second World War fighter airfield between Chard and Taunton. More than 200 runners and walkers took part in 2010 and raised thousands of pounds for the life-saving air ambulance service.

For 2011, there will again be a 2k fun run for families and young people, as well as individual and team 4k and 10k runs. Members of running clubs are not eligible for the team events.

DSAA chief executive Bill Sivewright said: "This really is an event for everybody. It is for those who take their running quite

seriously, an opportunity for friends and work colleagues to get a team together, and very much a family day out and great for children of any age to take part."

DSAA has attended more than 8,000 emergencies since its launch 11 years ago, saving many lives and aiding recovery with the speed at which casualties have been taken to hospital.

Entry forms are still available for the Trickey Warren Trek 2011 and can be downloaded from the DSAA website at www.dsairambulance.org.uk, by emailing TWT@dsairambulance.org.uk or calling 01823 669604.

◆ THE Factory Shop in Crewkerne has chosen Ferne Animal Sanctuary as its charity for the year donating collections from staff and customers.

Pictured is Rachel Male, of the The Factory Shop, presenting an initial cheque for £260 to Jenny Wheadon, director at Ferne Animal Sanctuary, who thanked everyone at The Factory Shop for their support



Three parish councillors step down at meet

THREE parish councillors in Hemyock have stood down. Sally Cartledge, Steven Reed and Paul

Steed stepped down after four years in office.

During the July parish council meeting,

a presentation and vote of thanks was made to each of the former councillors for their contributions.

WORKING OUR WOODLANDS

Blackdown and East Devon
Woodland Association with
John Greenshields

SEPTEMBER already — where has the year gone? We will soon be planting and pruning again.

We have been asked to supply pit props for an interpretation of the Whetstone Mines at Punchey Down in the Blackdown Hills. The project is backed by the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and will show how the mines worked, and how the whetstones (sharpening stones) were used.

We will be using skinned ash, as they would not have used oak as it was too valuable, and ash is fine out of the weather. These whetstones would have been sent all over the country as there are few places where they were mined.

We had a pair of hobbies nest in our lower wood some eight years ago and they have come back ever since each year. Now we have three pairs, presumably related. I can stand and watch them all day as they catch insects. The other day I witnessed what must be a rare site, two hobbies fighting in mid air. They were dive-bombing each other, and they did make contact every now and then!

For the first time in many years, we also have an abundance of green woodpeckers flying around shouting that high-pitched scream, which seems to frighten all other birds.

Whatever the doom and gloom merchants say, I think that in our woodland at least, the wildlife is on the increase and, to be controversial, I think a lot of it is due to the subsidies that farmers get. There I have said it, but it is true. If we want to keep what we have then landowners will have to be compensated for loss of productive land, especially with land hiked to just over the £6,000 per acre mark.

We will be soon cutting firewood again, we use 50 ton a year! Our next area to clear is a regeneration of some heath land, where we will be removing the birch. This allows the heather to return and we will graze it with cattle, they are just right for helping irrigate and spread the heather.

Birch is not bad for firewood but you must not leave it hanging around too long. We cut it and log it at the same time and use within a month or two, if you don't it will lose its calorific value very quickly.

Email: parkfarm@tinyonline.co.uk

Contact the news team at blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk

Your VIEW FROM THE BLACKDOWN HILLS team



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◆ PHOTO: RESIDENTS in Payhembury are celebrating the opening of a new community shop in the village. Above, store manager James Carpenter, centre, with volunteers get ready

Village celebrates its new community shop

By BEN MIDDLETON
ben@tindlenews.co.uk

AN east Devon village is celebrating the opening of its community shop.

Since April last year Payhembury has been without a village store but residents have rallied round and on Saturday, July 2nd, the official opening of Payhembury Provisions was held.

A committee has been formed to oversee the running of the enterprise and Lorinda Perry, chair of the Payhembury Provisions committee, said: "Our privately owned village shop closed at the end of April 2010, the first time the village was without a shop in living memory.

"Nobody wanted to step in and run the shop as a private business because the Post Office were no longer prepared to fund the position of post master which meant it was not an attractive proposition."

The committee held a public meeting and carried out a consultation event to see if the village supported the idea of a community shop. According to committee members the results of the consultation showed that a large percentage of residents were in favour of the plan.

Funding was needed to get the project off the ground and within three weeks villagers had raised £21,000. Funds were also received from the Plunkett Foundation, the Co-op and the Blackdown Hills Sustainable Development Fund.

The store is located in a converted barn in the middle of the village - close to the primary school, church and pub.

Lorinda added: "We were very lucky with the premises - a local farmer in the middle of the village was prepared to let us have a barn at a favourable rent which they would convert. All we had to do was pay to fit it out.

"The position (of the shop) could not be better if it had been planned by town planners. The church and the local school



◆ ABOVE, village postman Marty Richards cuts the ribbon. Right, villagers celebrate the opening

are within 200 metres of each other and between them we have the pub, new shop and the parish hall."

Payhembury Provisions has also received a message of support from Axminster based TV cook Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.

Mr Fearnley-Whittingstall said: "I'd like to congratulate the whole community of Payhembury on the fantastic work they are doing to create and maintain a genuine community shop. It's clearly a thorough and well thought out plan, which has in mind the needs of all members of the community.

"Particularly heartening is the breadth and depth of the commitment to support local produce."



PHOTOS BY MARTIN WHITHAM

Area's archive bid proves successful

THE Blackdown Archives project has proved very successful over the summer so far.

With funds from Making it Local the project has held open days at the Healthy Living Centre in Hemyock during the second weekend in April, May, June and July with many people attending.

People brought along old photos and documents to be added to the database.

The archive website has also been updated and can be seen at www.blackdownarchives.org.uk.

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Dementia project hits £43,000 fund jackpot

A PROJECT to help people with dementia in Honiton and across east Devon has won more than £43,000 in funding.

Honiton Memory Café and Age UK Devon submitted a bid for the funding to the Jubilee People's Millions competition. The competition is co-ordinated by the Big Lottery Fund in partnership with ITV.

The Heading Along Memory Lane project will provide dementia sufferers and their carers with a series of six outings on a customised 1958 vintage bus and it is hoped the outings will spark memories from the past.

The Honiton project faced stiff competition from Dance in Devon — a

scheme to provide dance workshops for all ages across the county — and the vote to find the winning project took place as this newspaper went to press on Monday last. The result was released live on ITV's The West Country Tonight show on Tuesday evening in a broadcast from the Boston Tea Party.

Heather Penwarden, chair of Honiton Memory Café, said she was delighted the project received the funding.

Speaking to *View from the Blackdown Hills*, she said: "Needless to say we are absolutely delighted that Age UK Devon has won the people's vote for this project. Honiton Memory Café will be the first to benefit and then the bus will be available for groups throughout east Devon."

"I know this is going to be of real benefit to people with memory problems and their carers."

Honiton Senior Council has been a long-time supporter of the Honiton Memory Café and their chairman Tony Smith said: "This is very much good news."

"The memory café has been toying with the idea of running once a fortnight (currently it is once a month) because it is going down so well and I think this money will help them do that."

"The memory café deserves this accolade and it is all down to Heather and Min Rennolds the two co-ordinators. They have both done so much and this money is a great reward for what they have done."

Nina Parnell, of Age UK Devon, added:

"We are absolutely delighted to have won the People's Millions. We would like to thank everyone in Honiton who backed our bid and made that call to make a difference."

"We couldn't have done it without the tremendous support from the Honiton community."

"We are now looking forward to working with people affected by dementia and their carers to design reminiscence day trips around east Devon on the 1958 memory lane bus."

"These trips will enable people with dementia to re-live their experiences of yesteryear, providing therapeutic benefits and encouraging the sharing of happy memories from the past."

Villagers achieve speed a campaign

AFTER campaigning for many years, Corfe villagers have achieved their objective of reducing the speed limit on the B3170 through the centre of the village from 40mph to 30mph.

Villagers raised £6,000 necessary for the scheme, which will be completed before the end of summer 2011.

Freddie wins bird book in fair's quiz

FREDDIE Mountjoy, of Colyton, won the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty bird quiz at the Blackdown Hills Woodland Fair.

His prize was a book on garden birds.

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Hills artists to open studios

BLACKDOWN Hills artists will be taking part in the Devon Open Studios event this month.

The Devon Open Studios trail, opening until September 18th, will be well represented in the east Devon area this year. Local artists are again throwing their working studios open to the public.

On the Blackdown Hills, near Upton, Sarah Bovey and Ann Janes share a studio overlooking the Otter Valley. Sarah focuses her mixed media and charcoal studies on tree and coastal rock formations. Ann works with acrylics and reclaimed materials exploring trees, landscape and maps.

Kathy Ramsay Carr, an abstract painter, lives in Kerswell. Her oil paintings are of the coast and Dartmoor, much influenced by the elements and their effect in a moment on sea or landscape.

Free comprehensive guides to the Devon Open Studio trails, with details, directions to studios and illustrations of work, will be available well ahead from tourist information centres throughout Devon and studios will be carefully signposted.

Jubilee meet

THE Chairman of Hemyock Parish Council, Heather Stallard, will chair a meeting in the village hall (Forbes Lounge) at 11am on Saturday, September 10th to make plans for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and all parishioners are invited.

The Diamond Jubilee weekend will be held from June 2nd to 5th 2012.

Mrs Stallard said: "There were a number of events already scheduled within the county and Hemyock now needs to make plans for a memorable day that will be enjoyed and remembered by all for years to come. This will be a great opportunity for the village and please be prepared to put forward ideas and nominate people to take them forward."



◆ Buckland St Mary Primary School pupils are pictured showing off their engraved silver plate and certificate

Prestigious soccer award for primary

BUCKLAND St Mary Primary School has won a prestigious county award, School of the Season, from the Somerset Football Association.

Rachael Auton attended the annual presentation evening held at The Canalside, in Bridgwater, to receive a certificate and engraved silver plate awarded to the school.

The evening was designed to recognise

and reward outstanding contribution and achievement from schools, clubs and volunteers within Somerset.

Rachael said: "I am honoured that the school has received this award. It is an illustration of how enthusiastic our children are."

"We are a very small rural school resulting in the children often having to play above their age group."

"The children always give 100 per cent, even when facing defeat."

"I know our children are brilliant and I am so proud that they have been recognised by the FA who clearly work with a great deal of schools."

"Our thanks also go to Peter Headington, former parent and coach, who initiated our work with the Somerset FA several years ago."

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A View from the Blackdowns



◆ A SWAN family pictured in Otterford, Somerset, in the Blackdown Hills area recently

Do you have a photo of a View from the Blackdowns? Email it to blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk

Plea for locals to help halt decline of swifts

By **ANDERS LARSSON**
anders@tindlenews.co.uk

Local people are being asked to help halt the decline of the swift — one of Britain's most loved summer visitors.

Swifts numbers have fallen by 45 per cent in the south west since 1995, and last year a survey found no swifts in the Blackdown Hills.

Now the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) team, RSPB and Devon Wildlife Trust have teamed up to record local sightings, and they are asking the public for help.

Swifts arrive from Africa in late April, staying for just three months to breed. They tend to nest under gables and eaves.

Anyone who sees a nest of young swifts

can complete a simple form, available on AONB's website or from the AONB office.

The conservationists are also interested in hearing from people who remember swifts in villages where they seem to have disappeared.

Linda Bennett, Blackdown Hills AONB manager, said: "Swifts are amazing birds. They have been a feature of our summers and sharing our buildings since Roman times, so it's vital that we help them to thrive once more. I would urge anyone who has seen swifts in the Blackdown Hills to fill in the survey — every sighting will help us to make better plans for their conservation."

The survey form is available at www.blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk/Swift-survey.html or by calling 01823 680681.

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www.viewfromtheblackdownhills.co.uk

A View from the clubs

Beautiful gardens on war ammunition site

ON a fine July afternoon, 25 members of the Yarty Gardening Club met at Fernhill, the home of Mr and Mrs Bowler.

The house and garden are on the site of a Second World War ammunition store that had been purchased for £100 pounds after the war.

A beautiful garden has been created by just two families.

The present owners purchased the house and garden in the early 1990s

and have done a lot of work planting many trees and shrubs which have matured quickly in the south east facing garden.

There were a large number of hydrangeas including many lace-cap varieties, many of which were fantastic shades of blues.

There was a wonderful bed of multi-coloured lilies and a spectacular show of alstroemeria and monardias.

After a leisurely stroll around the garden, members enjoyed the

hospitality of the owners with tea and biscuits in front of the house with wonderful views towards The Wellington Monument, Culmstock Beacon and the Blackdown Hills.

The club meeting on September 15th at 7.30pm at Buckland St Mary Village Hall will include a talk by Margaret Head on the Wonders of Westonbirt.

This will give the club an introduction for the annual coach trip outing, which is to Westonbirt on October 20th.



◆ A GROUP enjoy a cup of tea during the event

190 scones and 50 slices of cake sold at event to raise £850 for hospital

ORGANISERS have hailed their cream tea afternoon, held on Sunday, June 26th at Prings Farm, Madford, a success.

The sun shone and folk came from far and wide to sample the cakes and cream filled scones.

Further to the cream tea there was a bring-and-buy stall, raffle and guess-the-weight-of-the-cabbage

competition.

Over 190 scones and 50 slices of cake were sold raising £850 for the Beacon Centre at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton.

Organisers would like to thank the many people who helped make the event possible. In particular, Meg Palmer, Louise Barton, Suzanne Pitman, Lesley Barton and Donna

Evans for their sterling efforts. Also, thanks to John Kingston for donating the 14lb cabbage and to the local postmaster for filming and uploading a taster of the whole event onto YouTube.

Next year's event will be held on Sunday, June 17th 2012 and will be the third annual cream tea afternoon at Prings Farm, Madford.

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COLLEGE



◆ THE deputy mayor of Chard, Jenny Kenton, cut the ribbon on a new charity shop for Ferne Animal Sanctuary recently. The opening was well supported and business was brisk all day. Many customers commented on how professional the shop looked and that it was good to have a local charity being supported. Sue Mountstevens, shop manager, said: "It's a really exciting time with the new restaurant and tea room and children's activity units up at the sanctuary and the new shop in town." Pictured is deputy mayor Jenny Kenton, left, and Sue Mountstevens, shop manager

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The History of the Textile Industry in the South West Brought To Life

Autumn Events at the Mill

Coldharbour Mill is open for visitors to see wool spinning and weaving until mid-December, with the shop and restaurant also open, Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm.

The Autumn Half-term Steam Up takes place on Sunday 23rd October 2011. See the Mill's two steam engines in action, as well as the water wheel and the spinning and weaving demonstrations. The newly opened museum floor with the carding engines and spinning mule will be available, as will the mill shop and the Gill Box restaurant.

The Mill will host a Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday 26th November 2011. A good selection of local craft's people will selling their wares and the mill shop will be open with mill goods.

The New Year Steam Up will take place on 31st December 2011 and 1st January 2012. No matter what the weather throws at us, the Boiler House will be a warm and cheerful haven! Steam engines and all the usual Mill activities, as mentioned above.

Coldharbour Mill is located just 2 miles from junction 27 on the M5, and well-signed with brown signs on the approach roads; for sat-nav the postcode is EX15 3EE.

All details on the website – www.coldharbourmill.org.uk
or call the mill on 01884 840 960.



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countrysceneextra

Written by countryside
correspondent
TONY JACKSON



Praise for wildlife email newsletter

FIRST, let me once again commend the twice-monthly email newsletter edited by David Walters on behalf of the East Devon Local group of the Devon Wildlife Trust.

Packed with the latest wildlife news, largely based on the marshes and surrounding areas behind Seaton, the newsletter is invariably absorbing and well illustrated with numerous colour pix, many of them of remarkable quality.

On the latest letter there is, for instance, a photograph of a hen sparrowhawk crouched over its pigeon kill, a fox carrying a gull's head in its mouth, a Sandwich tern fishing off the Cobb at Lyme Regis and a Mediterranean gull accompanied by a black-headed gull, illustrating so well the difference between the two species.

There is also an excellent photo, taken by Jean Kreisler, of a roebuck.

In each newsletter Jean reports on wildlife activity from Holyford Woods and frequently remarks on the roe living in this area. The deer she pictured has a well balanced and nicely coloured head and though I cannot see whether it is a six-pointer, is probably about three to four years old.

Now, if you'd like to receive the newsletter by email call David Walters on 01297 552616 or 07791 541744 or email him on davidwalters@eclipse.co.uk.

Studland Bay is the only known breeding site in Britain for both spiny and short-snouted seahorses, both of which have been protected since 2008, and the area may also be a nursery for the endangered undulate ray.

However, the bay is also extensively used by up to 300 boats a day and anchors dropped in the seagrass, the habitat of the seahorses, create bare scars,

especially around the 50 moorings in the bay. The seagrass provides perfect breeding ground for these two species of British seahorse and there is, unfortunately, a conflict of interest between boat users and those who wish to protect this fragile habitat and its rare inhabitants.

Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT) has now appointed two beach wardens to make boat users aware of the unusual wildlife below the surface and how they can avoid damaging the bay. Based at the National Trust-owned beach, the wardens will be encouraging boat owners to avoid anchoring in the seagrass and especially in the no-anchor zone. The two wardens, Tom Barnfield and Melinda Fisher, will be patrolling the area by kayak in their endeavours to persuade boat users to respect the bay.

This year Dorset Wildlife Trust celebrates its 50 years of existence

and to mark the occasion a Golden Jubilee Gala Concert will be held at Lighthouse, Poole on Saturday, December 3rd at 7.30 pm. The renowned conductor Sir John Eliot Gardiner will have the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra beneath his baton and will be joined by Sir David Attenborough.

The programme will include some specially selected English music, including Elgar's Enigma Variations and Vaughan William's exquisite The Lark Ascending, featuring the Russian violin soloist Alina Ibragimova.

Sir John Eliot Gardiner, is a Dorset born and bred man and has been farming in the county, between concerts, since 1970, combining music with his love of nature, wildlife and good husbandry of soil, plants and animals.

There could be no better man to conduct this celebratory concert and the fact, too, that Sir David

Attenborough, Vice-President of The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, is supporting the occasion, is a tribute to the outstanding work of DWT.

It is confidently expected that the Jubilee Concert will be a sell-out occasion so you are strongly advised to apply now for tickets. Prices start at a mere £10 and are available from Dorset Wildlife Trust on 01305 264620, online from www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/bsotickets.html or from Lighthouse box office on 0844 406 8666.

■ I have never understood why some country folk refuse to eat wild rabbit. Nutritious, tasty and virtually free, my own preference is for rabbit over pheasant, a bird which can become as boringly bland as chicken.

The season for rabbits is year-round and there is nothing to beat a three-quarter grown bunny with its kidneys covered in fat and if you know of someone working a team of ferrets then you can usually arrange a regular supply of clean, healthy rabbits.

It is, perhaps, preparation which deters some people from putting this excellent dish on the table, yet nothing could be simpler. Easy and quick to skin and disassemble in the kitchen, the animal can be prepared in any one of a number of ways. You can make rabbit burgers, fry tender half-grown rabbits encased in flour, fry curried rabbit or, my favourite, as a casserole.

Now, if you'd like to come to grips with wild rabbit but are not too sure how to go about it, a splendid new

DVD has been produced by a professional ferreter, Simon Whitehead, and his two partners, Marie and Steve Taylor, who explain rabbit preparation for the table and offer a series of mouth-watering recipes. Steve shows just how simple and quick it is to skin a rabbit, while Marie talks us through the actual preparation of the meat for a variety of recipes. If you'd like a copy contact Simon Whitehead at 5 St George's Road, Pakefield, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR33 0JW or call 07766 168817. The price is £12.50.

■ My wife, Charlotte, had an odd experience recently when an exhausted pigeon waddled into her clothes shop, Buzz, in Sherborne. It proved to be a racing pigeon and by examining the rings on its legs, and making a call to the Royal Racing Pigeon Society via the internet, she quickly traced the owner who lived in Gloucestershire. Apparently, this was a young bird and, like several others in the same event, had gone astray. The bird was brought home, housed in a cage and given water and mixed bird wild bird seed. Within two days it had perked up and, on the owner's instructions, was released. Flying strongly, hopefully it headed back to its owner.

To contact Tony Jackson, write to: Country Scene, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD or by email to: wardjackson@iscali.co.uk

The views expressed are those of the columnist and not necessarily of the newspaper.

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Tel/Fax 01258 860361. www.gdsf.co.uk

The Quartz arts festival 2011 extends its usual warm welcome and invitation to arts and music lovers in the Blackdowns and beyond to wander down off the hills and sample some wonderful entertainment over the 10-day span of the event. As well as some wonderful performances, listed below, there will be an exhibition of paintings and drawings in the gallery, plus a huge range of sculpture on the lawns. All the work is by professional SW artists and is for sale, plus free admission.

Sept 29: Alexandra Dariescu Piano Concert, Queen's Hall, 7.30pm £12.00

Alexandra Dariescu is an outstanding communicator and musician, increasingly popular with audiences across Britain and Europe.

Programme:
RAVEL
SCHUMANN
BEETHOVEN
DEBUSSY
Interval
LISZT/WAGNER
LISZT
CHOPIN

Ondine (Gaspard de la nuit)
Abegg Variations, Op.1
Sonata in E flat, Op.31 No.3
L'isle joyeuse
Liebestod
Ballade No.2 in B minor
Andante Spianato and Grande Polonaise in G, Op.22

Sept 30: Adrian Edmondson & The Bad Shepherds + support band 7.30pm, Queen's Hall £20.00

'Punk songs on folk instruments - genius'

ADRIAN EDMONDSON (Vocals, 'thrash mandolin')

Ade is best known as a comedian in *The Young Ones* and *Bottom*. He's also a musician who's played with *Bad News*, the *Hootenanny* with *Jools Holland*, and *Hyde Park* with *The Who*.

Oct 3rd: Ranulph Fiennes: My Heroes 2.30pm, Queen's Hall £10.00 [students £5.00]

Described as the "World's Greatest Living Explorer" by the Guinness Book of Records, Sir Ranulph Fiennes has been at the forefront of many legendary expeditions. Fiennes's latest work is a study of the lives of men and women who have been his heroes.

Oct 4th: Ian Macmillan Orchestra 7.30pm, Queen's Hall £15.00

A scintillating night of poems, music, comedy & improv - with poet Ian MacMillan, the Bard of Barnsley, as ringmaster. As featured on *The South Bank Show*, *Loose Ends*, *Late Junction*, *The Mike Harding Show*, *BBC Proms* Plus...

Oct 5th: Harare Hamlet 7.30pm, Drama Studio £12.00

A Zimbabwean company's fresh take on Shakespeare's most enduring tragedy. Two actors play all the key roles in a version that is just half the length of a "traditional" production. They perform the piece in an imaginative and authentic "township" style that takes the audience to the world of Soweto or Harare.

Oct 6th: Steve Hewlett; ventriloquist 7.30pm, Queen's Hall £8.00

If you thought ventriloquists were old school, seeing Steve Hewlett will change your mind in so many ways. He's part of a new wave of young ventriloquists who are, literally, breathing new life into one of the oldest comedy arts.

Hosted by Queen's College, Trull Rd, Taunton, TA1 4QS
www.quartzfestival.org.uk

Tickets available online or from Taunton Tourist Information Centre



Leisure Review

Advertising sales: 01297 32601 louise@tindlenews.co.uk

Editorial: 01297 631120 blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk

FULL House Productions returns to The Brewhouse on Tuesday, September 6th at 7.45pm with the smash-hit show Forever In Blue Jeans.

With a cast of terrific singers, dancers and musicians the production begins in the 1950s and travels through time to the 1970s.

Forever In Blue Jeans features rock 'n' roll classics from Jerry Lee Lewis and Brenda Lee to The Beatles and The Monkeys.

Celebrating 50 years of Motown Magic the show performs tributes to The Four Tops, The Jackson 5, Diana Ross and a host of other Motown favourites.

The Carpenters, Showaddywaddy and Abba bring the show to the 70s ending with a fantastic grand finale where the audience is invited to join the party.

The energetic company is led by TV and radio recording artists Carole Gordon and Bob Newman.

Together they have enjoyed a career touring with both Tammy Wynette and Boxcar Willie, and have been voted Top British Duo by the British Country Music Association for three consecutive years.

Forever In Blue Jeans' talented cast of vocalists and dancers this year includes local boy Alistair Wilmot.

Alistair, who grew up in Taunton is an accomplished singer, dancer, actor and musician.

Having performed in many productions in various professional venues he is looking forward to appearing in his local theatre.

Joining the cast of Forever In Blue Jeans is the brilliant Red Hot Blue Jeans Band, they will be performing stunning instrumentals throughout the show with musical director Chris Burgess on drums and percussion, Andy Sapphir on lead guitar and vocals, Paul Bebington on keyboards, fiddle and vocals and the Producer Bob Newman on bass and vocals.

Forever In Blue Jeans promises to be a fun-filled evening of entertainment featuring countless hits from the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s through to the best of today.

Tickets cost from £14.50, to book call the box office on 01823 283244 or visit www.thebrewhouse.net.

Musical hits through time

FREE Leisure Review Diary Dates listing form

Date
Event
Time
Venue
Town/Village
Organised by Tel no

Send your Diary Dates to:

View from the Blackdown Hills, Tindle House, South Street, Axminster, Devon EX13 5AD or email blackdown@tindlenews.co.uk.

Please note: This is a free service and whilst we endeavour to include all entries, we cannot guarantee all listings submitted will be published. Please use one form per event.

WE ARE UNABLE TO TAKE DIARY DATES LISTINGS OR QUERIES OVER THE PHONE
Deadline for Diary Dates entries is on Fridays at 12 noon

Diary dates

Every Tuesday

CHARD: Slimming World morning sessions at Chard Guildhall at 9.30am and 11.30am Phone Jenny on 01460 61786. Evening sessions at 5.30pm and 7.30pm. Phone Charlie on 07790935647.

Every Thursday

CHARD: Zumba at The Guildhall, Chard. It offers a fun-based fitness workout. From 7.30pm until 8.30pm. For more information phone 07738 014409 or email zumbasom@hotmail.com.

CHARD: Chard Guildhall Antiques and Collectors Fair from 8 am. Free admission and a thriving fair with a good mix of regular and casual stallholders. Offering a fantastic range of good quality products. New stallholders always welcome. Contact 01460 239567 for more information.

Every Sunday

CHARD: Forefront Community Church service at Chard Guildhall. Everyone welcome. Service starts at 10.30am.

Saturday, September 10th

DUNKESWELL: Dunkswell Farmers' Market at Throgmorton Community Hall, Dunkeswell, from 10am to 12noon. Fresh local produce, plants, crafts and services. Kitchen open for refreshments.

Saturday, September 24th

BRIDPORT: How to get to the top in horse agility workshop in Bridport with Vanessa Bee. Also on Sunday, September 25th. Contact Vanessa Bee by emailing mail@thehorseagilityclub.com or calling 01409 0221166.

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Business Association**

Member Spotlight

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SIR GRAHAM WATSON MEP
Liberal Democrat Member of the
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We will also be running an Expo for attending businesses, so please let us know if you would like to take part in this. Towards the end of the evening (after dessert), we are inviting businesses to briefly describe (in no more than 2 minute slots) new business ventures or innovative projects. Slots will be offered on a first come first served basis. Please let us know if you would like to book a slot. We look forward to the pleasure of your company.

After dessert, we would like to hear from local businesses on what is new in their business and/or how they have managed in these difficult trading conditions

Dress: Smart Casual

£25 per person

Please visit our website for more details

To become a member of BHBA, Call 01823 681484 St Ivel House, Station Road, Hemyock, Cullompton, Devon EX15 3SJ info@bhba.org.uk
For details of business events and opportunities, visit our member website www.bhba.org.uk

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLACKDOWN
HILLS BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

◆ PICTURED, above, are Jenny Archard of Woodland Journeys and Jilly Ould of the Neroche Scheme. The Neroche Scheme demonstrates pole lathing, above centre. Top right, one young visitor admires his painted face at the Hearts and Hens stand

Visitors flock to BHBA tent

THE Blackdown Hills Business Association received thousands of visitors to its marquee at last month's Honiton Show this year.

Around 50 businesses took a pitch in the marquee and this year, for the first time, there was a waiting list for pitches.

Visitors always comment on the diversity of businesses and of course the quality.

Businesses commented that despite the current challenging trading conditions they were delighted to take a pitch in the marquee as the event provided

them with an excellent shop window. A number sold out of their products by early afternoon and even the early rain did not put people off.

The Neroche Scheme, Escot Park and the

Blackdown Hills Hedge Association managed to keep hundreds of children — and parents — entertained throughout the day with various activities.

Val Baker, of the Blackdown Hills Business Association, said: "We are very grateful for the support of all the stallholders, the Blackdown Hills Area of Natural Beauty Partnership and especially to the Honiton Show visitors."



◆ LEFT, Scott Nemes, of Imagination Photography, talks to a customer. Above, Vigo — which specialise in presses for fruit and cider — promotes its wares

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10 reasons to buy locally grown food

1. Locally grown food tastes better.

Food grown in your own community was probably picked within the past day or two. It's crisp, sweet and loaded with flavour. Much over the counter food travels from farm to plate is 1,500 miles.

In a week-long (or more) delay from harvest to dinner table, sugars turn to starches, plant cells shrink, and produce loses its vitality.

2. Local produce is better for you.

A recent study showed that fresh produce loses nutrients quickly. Food that is frozen or canned soon after harvest is actually more nutritious than some "fresh" produce that has been on the truck or supermarket shelf for a week.

3. Local food preserves genetic diversity.

In the modern industrial agricultural system, varieties are chosen for their ability to ripen simultaneously and withstand harvesting equipment; for a tough skin that can survive packing and shipping; and for an ability to have a long shelf life in the store.

4. Local food is GMO-free.

Although biotechnology companies have been trying to commercialise genetically modified fruits and vegetables, they are currently licensing them only to large factory-style farms. Local farmers don't have access to genetically modified seed, and most of them wouldn't use it even if they could.

5. Local food supports local farm families.

Local farmers who sell direct to consumers cut out the middleman and get full retail price for their food - which means farm families can afford to stay on the farm, doing the work they love.

6. Local food builds community.

When you buy direct from the farmer, you are re-establishing a time-honoured connection. Knowing the farmers gives you insight into the seasons, the weather, and the miracle of raising food.

7. Local food preserves open space.

An enjoyable drive out into the country reveals

fields of crops, sometimes meadows and banks of wildflowers. That landscape will survive only as long as farms are financially viable.

When you buy locally grown food, you are doing something proactive about preserving the agricultural landscape.

8. Local food supports a clean environment and benefits wildlife.

A well-managed family farm is a place where the resources of fertile soil and clean water are valued. Good stewards of the land often grow cover crops to prevent erosion and replace nutrients used by their crops. Cover crops also capture carbon emissions and help combat global warming, the patchwork of fields, meadows, woods, ponds and buildings - is the perfect environment for many beloved species of wildlife.

9. Local food is about the future.

By supporting local farmers today, you can help ensure that there will be farms in your community tomorrow, and that future generations will

have access to nourishing, flavourful, and abundant food.

10. Supporting local food suppliers keeps the wheels of the local economy turning and preserves the countryside we live in.



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Country Living

Love baking? You'll love this...

National Baking Week's Bake Along this year will take place in October, so it is worth getting some practice in beforehand. Visit the official website at: www.nationalbakingweek.co.uk for loads of tips, ideas and to find out how you can get involved!



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WHAT TO DO THIS MONTH

- Plant spring flowering bulbs
- Plant winter flowering plants such as Viola or Winter Pansy

Summer's is drifting away and the first chills of winter tinge the autumn air. It's September and the Kids are back to school and though being out in the garden may

be the last thing on your mind, now is the time to sow for next summer

Seeds

Sow sweet peas in the greenhouse or a cold frame for early summer flowers next year. They'll grow as soon as the weather gets warm enough, and will be ready for planting out next spring.



Planting

Now is the time to plant spring bulbs. Get daffodils in by mid-September, along with fritillaries, crocuses and grape hyacinths. Tulip bulbs are best left until November.

Harvesting

September is the ideal time to pick apples and blackberries for home-made pies and jam. Gather blackber-

ries to make sure they haven't been contaminated by traffic pollution, and use a stick to pull them closer.

Wildlife

Migrant birds such as swallows and house martins will begin flying south for the winter so keep bird feeders and birdbaths topped up to encourage more birds to visit your garden as



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Country Living

Get fruity!



You might be struggling to get five a day in your diet, but with fruit-themed decor taking over the high street, you won't have any problems getting it into your home.

A fun and colourful trend, harvest your fruity homeware according to your taste, says Homes & Bargains editor Eve Kelly.

"For a fresh, contemporary look, stick to bold silhouette prints for items like chopping boards, oil cloth table coverings and tea towels. They can give a quick and affordable facelift to any kitchen."

For those who prefer a more classic look and just want to add one or two touches to their home to reflect this trend, opt for choice additions like glass ornaments and shaped like pears.



Unless you've been living in a hole in the ground for the last few years, you'll know that using peat-based products in your garden is decimating peatlands throughout the UK and beyond.

Peatlands provide vital habitats for wildlife, store greenhouse gases and release thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. However, peat is used in compost and soil improvers because it's light, retains moisture and stores nutrients. It's also very cheap.

In an effort to raise awareness and encourage gardeners to choose peat-free alternatives, leading organic growing charity Garden Organic has launched its 'I Don't Dig Peat' campaign, to put an end to the 24 million wheelbarrows of peat which its experts estimate is being used unnecessarily by British gardeners each year.

Gardeners' World presenter Alys Fowler, who is fronting the campaign, says: "Whether people think peat is the best option depends on if they've experimented with going peat-free."

"Increasingly, those who go peat-free and get hold of good quality compost find there's no argument. I don't use any peat-based compost and I see no difference. I grow fantastic vegetables."

"If you were trying to grow peat bog plants, there's an argument that growing them in peat is sensible, but the amount of people growing peat bog plants is tiny. What's happening is that a lot of people are using peat - up to 70% peat in some multi-purpose composts - for growing, say, tomatoes. But tomatoes don't need peat to grow."

Fowler uses her council's green waste compost, called 'Care compost', sold at her lo-

For Peats sake



cal garden centre, along with peat-free multi-purposes from Carbon Gold, New Horizon and Vital Earth.

"If your council is making green waste, phone their refuse department which should be able to tell you where to buy it. It's incredibly cheap," she suggests.

Historically, peat-free composts have been criticised for being inferior for seed-sowing. A Which? Gardening report from the Consumers' Association magazine noted earlier this year: "Our trial results show that peat-free composts still have a way to go to match the performance of peat for sowing seeds and growing on young plants - although the picture is rosier for container composts."

However, some peat-based composts are just as inferior as their peat-free counterparts, says Ceri Thomas, editor of Which? Gardening.

"Gardeners shouldn't assume that all compost is the same. Whether peat-free or peat-based, the quality of compost varies massively."

"Our trials found that it is possible to buy a good quality peat-free compost that performs as well as the best peat-based compost. But

there are also a number of peat-based and peat-free composts that simply don't match these high standards."

In its latest trial, Which? Gardening recommends New Horizon Organic & Peat Free Growbag for sowing seeds. Germination rates for basil were on a par with its 'Best Buy' peat-based compost and the quality of the resulting seedlings was good.

New Horizon Organic & Peat Free multi-purpose compost (£5.99 for 60 litres) was a 'Best Buy' container compost for the second consecutive year, outperforming seven peat-based composts, including three specific container ones, to come joint top. For more information on the campaign and to pledge not to use peat, go to www.idontdigpeat.org.uk



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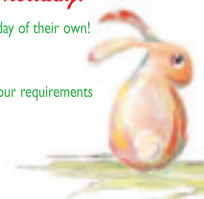
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Who we are...

THE RSPB work is driven by a passionate belief that we all have a responsibility to protect birds and the environment. Bird populations reflect the health of the planet on which our future depends.

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The RSPB could not exist without its supporters and members. Whether you join us, give a donation, purchase items from us or undertake voluntary work, your support is vital to the future of birds and the places where they live.



How to feed birds

A squirrel proof peanut feeder

Bird tables are suitable for many species and most foods. A simple tray is perfectly adequate, with or without a roof. It needs a raised rim to retain the food and a gap at each corner of the rim to allow rainwater drain away and allow you to clean away droppings and uneaten food. Do not be tempted by elaborate designs that are difficult to clean.

Nut feeders are made of steel mesh, and are the only safe method of offering nuts to wild birds. The mesh size needs to be large enough to prevent beak damage and small enough to prevent large pieces of nut from being removed – about 6 mm is a good compromise.

Seed feeders are tubular transparent containers with holes, through which birds are able to access the seed. These are designed for sunflower seeds and seed mixes labelled feeder seed. They will attract tits, siskins and greenfinches.

Nyjer seed is smaller and needs a special type of seed feeder. They are particularly popular with goldfinches and siskins. Hopper types with trays or flat surfaces are suited to general cereal based mixes, although any seed mix can be used. They will attract a similar range of birds as a bird table. Make sure that all feeders drain easily and do not allow the build-up of old food with the associated health risks.

Home-made devices

Half coconuts and tit bells filled with fat, bird cake, etc can be hung from your bird table, a tree or from a bracket on a wall. They will attract greenfinches, house sparrows and tits.

Other ideas

Fill the holes and cracks of a post or suspended log with fatty food, such as suet, for agile birds, such as tits, nuthatches, woodpeckers, treecreepers and even wrens.

Thrushes and dunnocks prefer to feed on the ground. For these birds, scatter food on the lawn or use a ground feed-

ing tray or hopper well clear of cover to avoid lurking cats. Remember to change the area you scatter the food over every few days, and never put out more than is eaten the same day to avoid attracting vermin.

If you put food such as apples and bread on the ground, space it out in different places in the garden. This will reduce competition between birds so that more birds can feed at any one time. If there is snow on the ground, clear small areas before putting down the food.

If you have a garden, consider planting items for wildlife to feed on or take shelter in.

Mesh bags – a warning

Peanuts and fat balls are regularly sold in nylon mesh bags. Never put out any food in mesh bags. These may trap birds' feet and even cause broken or torn off feet and legs. Birds with a barbed tongue, eg woodpeckers, can become trapped by their beaks.

When to feed wild birds

Although winter feeding benefits birds most, food shortages can occur at any time of the year. By feeding the birds year round, you'll give them a better chance to survive the periods of food shortage whenever they may occur.

Autumn and winter

At this time of year, put out food and water on a regular basis. In severe weather, feed twice daily if you can: in the morning and in the early afternoon.

Birds require high energy (high fat) foods during the cold winter weather to maintain their fat reserves to survive the frosty nights. Use only good quality food and scraps.

Always adjust the quantity given to the demand, and never allow uneaten foods to accumulate around the feeders. Once you establish a feeding routine, try not to change it as the birds will become used to it and time their visits to your garden accordingly.



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Can it cut it?



◆ 2010 Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG — can it make it in the 'real world'?

THERE is an argument that very little technology trickles down from Formula One to the road car world. For example, you don't see many affordable carbon fibre cars, high-revving engines or button-festooned steering wheels.

In truth that's probably a good thing. Today's world is all about saving money and fuel. And it's fair to say that Formula One is as much about branding and marketing opportunities as it is about world-beating technology.

It can work in the opposite way, however. Get your road car in front of F1's vast audience and you're guaranteed significant exposure. Mercedes worked this out a long time ago, which is why the various official and medical cars are all from the German firm.

It's the same for the safety car, which has changed over the years to whatever was new in the Mercedes stable. And, unless you were under a rock somewhere recently, you can't have failed to notice the leading performance — literally — of the SLS AMG at a particularly wet Canadian Grand Prix.

Positioned as the marques' 'halo' car, images of the SLS splashing around leading a rag-tag bunch of drenched F1 cars were beamed around the world. In marketing-speak you can't buy that level of coverage. You can, however, buy the car.

So only a few people will have the means to acquire it, but for us mere mortals it does beg the question — does the SLS cut it in the real world? Away from demanding drivers, preening celebrity guests and the cameras, the SLS has to cope with speed humps, potholed roads and jealous fellow road users.

At first glance the SLS is an intimidating beast. The car's bonnet is long and wide, making you doubt your ability to thread it through traffic even before you're sat behind the wheel. And before you do, you'll experience the theatrical motions of the car's gullwing doors. Mercedes makes no apologies for this homage to its famous 300 SL. In fact, the whole car is a modern day tribute to that groundbreaking supercar.

Once behind the wheel - there's a quickly learnt knack to not hitting your head and deftly sliding down into the car's bucket seats - your view is filled with that long bonnet. The various controls and displays will be familiar to fans of



other AMG cars, but the noise after pressing the starter button will not.

The SLS might use AMG's 6.2-litre V8 engine, a staple unit for a few years now, but its raucous, hard-edged sound is the result of some serious fettling by AMG engineers. The result is 571 horsepower and the promise of an unlimited 197mph top speed and a zero to 62mph sprint time of 3.8 seconds. With its twin, flush tailpipes emitting everything from thunderous roars to the pops and bangs of a race-tuned competition car, the SLS not only looks the part but sounds it too.

On the road the SLS makes no attempt to disguise its performance potential. Rumbling around town at sedate speeds you know people are looking. It's partly the car's appearance but mainly the noise - even at low speeds there's an urgent rumble from the car's tailpipes.

Thankfully the SLS is anything but a beast to drive in town. You sit low down and the view forward is dominated by that bonnet, but you soon get used to the cabin layout, the auto gearbox and how to best position the car for roundabouts, junctions and the like.

Predictably, though, the SLS excels away from the city limits. Even if you don't plan on exploiting its full potential, acceleration is rapid and the engine noise intoxicating. You sit close to the rear axle; the engine is located behind the front axle for better weight distribution

and the speed at which the SLS changes direction belies its size. For all the car's hi-tech driving aids - and there are many - the experience is refreshingly old school and rewarding.

On a track the SLS has the potential to prompt a smile wider than the arc of its powerslide. For all the built-in Mercedes safety aids, the SLS will slide and drift like the best Japanese modified cars. To say it's a hooligan is an understatement, but this is also true of other AMG cars. Turn all the aids off and it's amazing what this car can do.

With the SLS Mercedes has created a sublime mix of monster and sophisticated long distance grand tourer. It boasts all the luxury and refinement of an SL, but packs the punch of a genuine supercar. Some rivals deliver a more precise and clinical performance, but there's something great about being able to rumble along to an old style V8 soundtrack.

And what an engine AMG's 6.2-litre lump is. Still, for all its mighty power and noise, there's one thing that trumps it: the car's gullwing doors. Combining theatre with a surprising dose of practicality, nothing comes close in the 'wow' department.

F1 drivers are said to have the best job in the world but I reckon the guy driving the safety car might be the true winner. Having sampled it in the real world I would have to agree.

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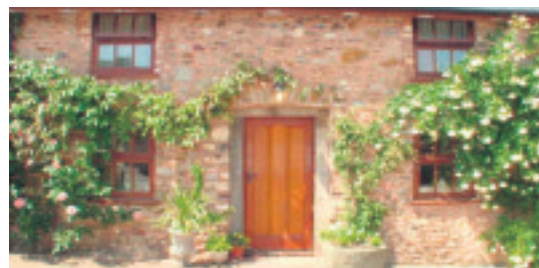


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Ref: 47552



BRADFORD ON TONE

An impressive 4 bedroom detached house with gardens and paddock. Entrance hall, sitting room with mezzanine, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, utility, cloakroom, study, bathroom, garden, paddock, stables, garage, parking. G.F.C.H. Taunton office 01823 447355

£1,200 Per calendar month

Ref: 32527

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CULM DAVY

A substantial barn conversion centred around a cobbled courtyard and enjoying fine country views over the surrounding countryside. Kitchen/breakfast room, sitting room/dining room, study, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room & sauna. Garage/workshop, extensive outbuildings, cobbled courtyards & gardens. Ref: 43585

Guide price £550,000

Wellington 01823 662822



CHURCHINFORD

A beautifully appointed five bedroom detached character house situated in the heart of this sought after village within the Blackdown Hills designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Sitting room, dining room, study, breakfast room, kitchen, utility, shower room, 1 en suite & family bathroom. Walled garden & 2 storey barn. Ref: 40707

Guide price £395,000

Wellington 01823 662822



MARSH

A conveniently located smallholding sitting amidst a generous plot in a convenient village location. 2 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, 3/4 bedrooms one with large dressing room/laundry room, 2 bathrooms, (One with large dressing room). Gardens to front and rear. Garage.

Guide price £315,000

Honiton 01404 45885

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Caroline Snell at Honiton: 01404 45885

Mark Neason at Wellington: 01823 662822

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CHURCHINFORD

A conveniently located smallholding centred on a four bedroom detached house with useful range of outbuildings, gardens and adjoining field in total to approximately 7.98 acres. 2 reception rooms, kitchen, laundry room, shower room & bathroom. Ref: 17720

Guide price £565,000

Wellington 01823 662822



TOLCIS, NR MEMBURY

An attractive Grade II Listed Farmhouse with many fine period features situated in a superb elevated position with lovely countryside views in a southerly direction. 3 Reception rooms. Family kitchen. Breakfast room. 5 Bedrooms. 2 Bathrooms. Traditional stone barn with consent to convert. Modern farm building. Gardens & grounds of about 4 acres. Ref: 45072

Guide price £620,000

Honiton 01404 45885

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